Duty anomalies in Synthetic Fibre Industry

3017. SHRI K.KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that synthetic Fibre manufacturers' in the country are very much peeved and want immediate removal of duty anomalies burdening the industry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that import from South East Asian countries is much cheaper than indigenously produced fibres, resulting in the units being shut down because of lack of level playing field; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to improve the situation for domestic fibre manufacturing units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) In the Budget proposals for 2001-2002, Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on DMT,PTA,MEG and Caprolactum is proposed to be brought down to 20%, which is same as that on Polyester Fibre/Yarn, Acrylic Fibre and Nylon Filament Yarn.

(a) and (c) The proportion of imports to total consumption is low. India is also exporting Synthetic Fibre/yarns to other countries. However, specific cases of import of cheap fibres/yarns qualifying as "dumping" can be investigated by the competent authority.

Import of life saving drugs

3018. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of life saving drugs imported during each of the last years, till date;

(b) the names of companies from which these were imported and foreign exchange involved therein;

(c) the steps taken by Government to produce these drugs in the country under its new drug policy; and

(d) whether Government are aware that with the proposed

abolition of the Drug Price Control Order, its control over the drug industry might be finished and prices of all medicines would go up, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 5th March, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There is no classification of drugs as life saving or otherwise either in the Drug Policy or in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. The total value of drugs & medicines imported during each of the last three years is as below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Item/Year	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Import of Medicinal & Pharmaceutical products	144711.68	161519.91	150230.30

Source : Foreign Trade Statistics of India, March 2000, DGCIS, Ministry of Commerce. Import of drugs is not monitored company-wise.

(c) The Drug Policy is directed towards ensuring abundant availability of drugs at reasonable prices. In this direction, in 1999 those drugs, which were exclusively reserved for public sector undertakings have been de-reserved. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Pharmaceutical Sector has been liberalized by permitting upto 74% FDI under the automatic route.

(d) There is no proposal with the Government to dismantle the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.

Participation of private sector in the production of urea

†3019. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.